



Commissioner Mike Morath

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November 5, 2019

Dr. Grenita Lathan, Interim Superintendent  
Houston Independent School District  
4400 W. 18th St.  
Houston, TX 77092

Dear Dr. Lathan:

Thank you for your letters dated September 12, 2019, and September 13, 2019, appealing the accountability ratings of T.H. Rogers School and Wheatley High School. Each appeal has been carefully considered, along with information provided by staff and the recommendations of an independent, three-person appeals panel. The decision for each appeal follows.

The basis of your appeal for T.H. Rogers School is that the campus serves three, distinct special programs. The campus houses a gifted and talented program, Regional Day School for Pervasively Deaf or Hard of Hearing, and the Preparing Students for Independent Living (PSI) for severely and multiply impaired and medically fragile high school students. Your appeal provides supporting documentation showing that the only high school students on the campus are the 25 students in the PSI program. Your appeal requests the exclusion of the College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) components from the accountability calculations for this campus. As this campus serves a unique and diverse population, the agency agrees that the limited number of high school students served by this special program has had a disproportionate impact on accountability outcomes. As such, the agency will evaluate T.H. Rogers School as an elementary school type for 2019 and 2020 accountability purposes. Houston Independent School District should seek options to resolve this unusual situation before 2021 accountability, such as requesting a unique campus number for the students served in the PSI program. Using the elementary school type targets and weights improves the campus's overall scaled score to a 94 or a rating of A. For this reason, your appeal for T.H. Rogers School (101912039) is granted.

When a district or campus rating is changed as the result of an appeal, the data and calculations, on which the original rating was based are not changed; only the rating itself is changed. Accountability reports for the 2018–19 school year will include the same data and calculations as do the original reports. However, the overall rating for T.H. Rogers School will be changed to an A.

The agency will update its website and accountability products in November 2019 after resolving all appeals. You are welcome to share the result of your appeal with your community before then.

Notwithstanding a changed rating, a campus identified for comprehensive support and improvement, targeted support and improvement, or additional targeted support must implement the applicable Texas Accountability Intervention System (TAIS) requirements. Questions regarding TAIS requirements may be directed to the School Improvement Division at (512) 463-5226.

The basis of your appeal for Wheatley High school is twofold. First, the appeal contends that as graduation rates and CCMR indicators are lagging, these components include students who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Second, the appeal requests the agency modify the methodology for calculating overall campus ratings found in Chapter 5 of the *2019 Accountability Manual*. This step states:

If an *F* rating is received in three of the four areas of Student Achievement; School Progress, Part A: Academic Growth; School Progress, Part B: Relative Performance; or Closing the Gaps, the highest scaled score a campus can receive for the overall rating is a 59. In order for this provision to be applied, the campus must be evaluated in all four areas. If the Student Achievement domain rating is a *D* or higher, this provision will not be applied.

Your appeal requests Wheatley High School either receive a *Not Rated* or *Not Rated: Hurricane Harvey* label. Please be aware that in order to preserve its intent and integrity, the accountability system, as prescribed each year in the accountability manual, must be applied to all districts consistently. The requests described above to modify accountability indicators and an accountability methodology constitute a request to modify indicators and a methodology that are applied to all districts and campuses. Consequently, the rating for Wheatley High School cannot be changed, and your appeal is denied. The overall rating for Wheatley High School (101912018) remains an *F*.

Please direct any questions to the Performance Reporting Division at (512) 463-9704 or [performance.reporting@tea.texas.gov](mailto:performance.reporting@tea.texas.gov).

Sincerely,



Mike Morath  
Commissioner of Education

cc: Jeff Cottrill, Deputy Commissioner, Governance and Accountability  
Jamie Crowe, Executive Director, Performance Reporting